

I. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] Furthermore, a caregiver or a baby-sitter may wish to calm a rambunctious child or otherwise occupy one by reading to the child, especially at bedtime, but be unable to do so for any of the reasons mentioned hereinabove as well as for other reasons. For example, the caregiver or baby-sitter may need to attend to other children precisely at a time that would be ideal to read a story to another child who was just placed in their crib or bed, ~~for example.~~

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] An [[eight]] eighth continuing object of the invention is to provide a selective narrative data base, system, and method that provides access to a narrative as part of a pay per minute type of a telephone service, such as by calling a "900" telephone number service whereby a shorter narrative is less expensive to listen to than would be a longer narrative.

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] Briefly, a selective narrative data base, system, and method that is constructed in

accordance with the principles of the present invention has a server (i.e., a computer) that is connected to a data base. The data base contains a plurality of narratives which are stored as files of audio signals. A user contacts the server over a telephone line or over the Internet and, if authorized, is provided access to the narrative files in the data base. The user selects at least one of the narrative files which is downloaded to the user either in real time or in a compressed format. The compressed format allows a transfer rate that is faster than the "real time" necessary to enunciate the narrative. The file preferably includes digital audio signals but it may also be an analog file of actual audio signals such as are suitable to drive a speaker. Accordingly, the file is adapted to be "played" to the user in real time. Accordingly to a particular preferred embodiment, a transceiver at the site of the user receives the audio signals that are downloaded from the server and transmits them to a figurine. The figurine contains a receiver and suitable circuitry and components to drive a speaker. The figurine is able to recite the narrative to a listener. The narrative audio files may be downloaded to the user and listened to as they are received or stored for future listening.